

DECCAN POST

Hyderabad's Only English Newsweekly



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Vol-VI, Issue No. 4

March 3-9, 2013

www.deccanpost.net

16 Pages

Rs.3/-

All parties facing a challenge for Local Polls in T-region



By Our Political Correspondent

Forced by the Supreme Court order on February 18th, Kiran Kumar Reddy led Congress government in the state is left without any excuse to hold elections to the local bodies within three months. As such, the elections to the twenty thousand odd Gram Panchayats, eleven hundred Mandal Praja Parishads and

Twenty Two Zilla Parishads spread over three region of the state would have to be completed by the end of May. The SC ruling emphatically ordered the state election commission to make arrangements for holding constitutionally mandated polls for the local bodies that are due for polls since two years.

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The apex court cleared the litigation by approving the 60.55 percent of reservation quota for BCs, SCs and STs for now and that paved road for holding polls. Thus, the hurdles that came in view of 'stay' ordered by the AP high court questioning the excess of reservations stands abated for now. State Panchayat Raj Minister K Jana Reddy told the media that the government would hold elections to gram panchayats first and then for Mandal and Zilla Parishads later. Normally, gram panchayat elections are held on non-party basis and there is nothing to suggest that it could be different this time.

However, the state government can either have polls for mandal and zilla parishads on party basis as was the case in past several elections since 1987 onwards or the polls can be held on non-party basis too. Now, the stage has been set for another round of trial of strength between

the ruling Congress and the several opposition parties in two regions of Andhra Pradesh state that is facing a demand for formation of Telangana state. Fresh from deriving success in the just held cooperative elections, CM Kiran Kumar Reddy as well as PCC President Botsa Satyanarayana are known to be scheming a game plan to convert the potential debacle in the local bodies to a possible advantage. That's why the duo are seen consulting a lot of people as to how to reap rich electoral dividends in the local elections. For any ruling party, a debacle in the Panchayat election spells doom for its electoral prospects in the general elections.

It is to be seen how Congress will fare in these elections Vis a Vis the TDP, YSRCP, BJP and TRS too, as the elections are being held just a year ahead of next general elections in March - 2014. But, the outcome will be much more crucial

in Telangana, as the region holds key to the future of different parties in AP as well as at the national level. In fact, local body elections are crucial for the future of any political party as they decide and indicate the 'grass roots' support base of each party. Unless a party fares well at the village level, it cannot hope to win either seats either for assembly or Lok Sabha. The local body elections reveal which way the wind is blowing and also allow for testing the respective strengths of rival parties. Which party has the cadre base at the level of a polling booth and who has the men and machinery will be known more clearly with the outcome of the polls.

Telangana and Local polls:

If we recollect the 2001 Panchayat elections held in July that year, a majority of people in many districts across Telangana, who had no idea of who this

KCR was, had overwhelmingly voted for TRS and got it two zilla parishads. K Chandra Sekhar Rao, who just won his fourth straight victory to the state assembly in October - 1999 from Siddipet constituency felt humiliated for not being taken into the TDP government headed by Chandra Babu Naidu. A sulking KCR was offered the post of Deputy Speaker which he accepted but began his pursuit for avenging the humiliation suffered by him at the hands of Chandrababu Naidu. After utilizing all the free time available to him as Deputy Speaker, he evinced keen interest in the Telangana statehood issue that was being led by numerous non political forces. A determined KCR sensing electoral advantage in the soon to come Panchayath elections resigned to the post of the Deputy Speaker and also from the TDP on 27th April, 2001. He immediately announced the formation of his new party - TRS and entered the fray





for local polls that were held in the first week of July that year. In less than 100 days, the TRS floated by KCR became a super success bagging Nizamabad and Karimnagar ZPs and winning around 100 Mandals. It was clear how the popular mood was in favour of Telangana state.

The support from these two districts was spread like wildfire within no time and the party's popularity expanded to other areas over the years. Hundreds of gram panchayats and over 85 ZPTCs were won by TRS in 2001. In fact, that win played a key role in strengthening the base of TRS over the years in key districts of north-Telangana region.

But alas, KCR had frittered away the benefits of 2001 local body elections victory and lost a golden opportunity to consolidate the gains. The elected representatives of TRS too lost an opportunity and failed to keep the goodwill of people, by not being different from other power politicians. As a result, they lost the advantage five years later, in 2006, when local body polls were held by late YSR regime, only to bite the dust. Within no time, TRS turned into any other regular political party, where tickets are bartered to the money power of the candidates; even now, party B-forms (Tickets) are given in a secret manner by the party top leader and there is no centralized democratic culture in running the party. It is no wonder, till date TRS has no village level committees to run the party affairs. It is to be seen if the TRS can once again derive the advantage of the present positive mood prevailing among the people for statehood.

Who will perform better now?

Answer to this question is somewhat difficult to predict. As the elections are being held a year later than the expiry of term of elected bodies, people are fed up with the special officers' rule as well as with the unpopular policies of Kiran Kumar Reddy government, in normal course, Congress should loose very badly. The party cannot hope to win any Zilla Parishad in Telangana. Any other party

which promises to work for the creation of separate Telangana state has enhanced chances of winning. But, it appears that things are dicey as of now, as the picture is somewhat clouded by narrow considerations. TRS is limited in its appeal, thanks to the wrong policies of its leadership, while BJP is still not ready for local body polls. However, with TRS not in a position to seize out right advantage, the chances of TDP doing well here and there cannot be ruled out. Since, the TDP has relatively done a better in stating its stand on supporting statehood to Telangana; it has better chances than congress and YSRCP. However, the TDP has to confront the TRS and the manner in which TRS is exuding over confidence and arrogance; another deadly blow cannot be a surprise. In the absence of

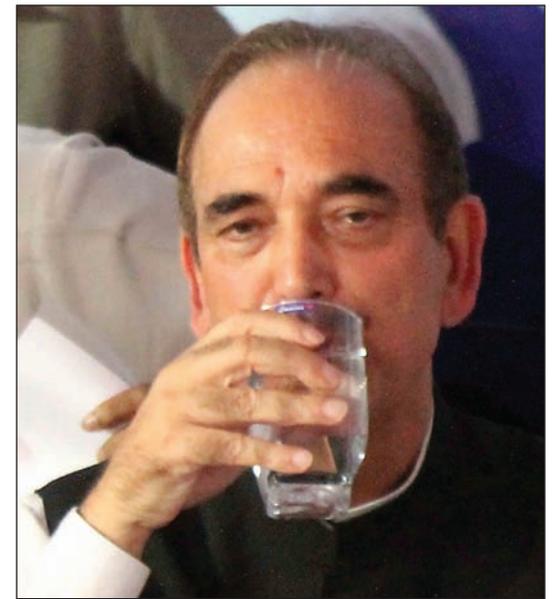
credibility for any leader on the horizon, the voters have a tough chance of distinguishing between the worse and bad choices. The above scenario leaves the voter with little choice.

Nagam's TNS?

However, if a new party that comes now with a proven credibility factor, it can probably capture the imagination of people of this region; it surly can put up an impressive performance. But it is still to be seen who will take such an initiative? The absence of one single party that can sweep all the 10 districts of Telangana also gives scope for space for a new party. Senior MLA Nagam Janardhan Reddy - who has emerged as a strong voice for the people of Telnagana after

resigning from the TDP and winning his seat as an Independent candidate from Nagar-Kurnool constituency. After being deliberately sidelined by the T-JAC at the behest of KCR, the veteran politician - Nagam is a much determined man. In the past few weeks, Nagam has been sounding about coming with a new party in view of the monopolistic tendency of the TRS and its leadership revealing all signs of dictatorship and acting at cross purposes. But, starting a political party is not a casual affair and even if Nagam desires to convert his Telangana Nagara Samithi into a political outfit - there is a lot of procedure involved which could take few months to found a new party. One has to see what Nagam will do in the present situation.





Quite positively, the ground reality favours Nagam far more than others. Especially, in view of the TRS's gross failure in the recent MLC elections from the teachers' constituency - of Warangal, Nalgonda and Khammam districts. His nominee Varada Reddy had lost to another pro-Telangana candidate Poola Ravinder by a substantial margin. This is a defeat to KCR too, as his appeal had not worked here. Though, KCR backed two other candidates in MLC elections - Swami Goud (graduates' seat from Adilabad, Nizamabad, Karimnagar and Medak districts) and P Sudhakar Reddy from teachers' seat from the same

districts) had won, their personal appeal and popularity played a role in it. Swamy Goud was an employees' leader, while Sudhakar Reddy was a former MLC.

The defeat of Varada Reddy who contested on TRS B - Form, shows that mere backing of KCR cannot ensure the victory of a candidate in Telangana, unless the candidate is also worthy and enjoys general goodwill. This outcome has dent the image of KCR and the demand for his TRS tickets is sure to go down in 2014 elections. If this phenomenon gets repeated in the upcoming local body elections also; then no one can save KCR

and TRS. So, there is life beyond TRS and KCR in Telangana. It is a good opportunity to other parties like BJP, CPI, CPI (New Democracy) as well as others like TDP too, as it has been claiming that it is not against the formation of Telangana state. It is also the duty of these parties to exhibit their real strength in their respective areas to be able to claim assembly and Parliament seats later.

It is better that the Telangana political joint action committee (JAC) not interferes in the contest of different pro-Telangana parties in local body elections. Let each party put up its best fight and bag

its maximum seats as the tally itself will speak for its popularity. There shall not be any effort on the part of T-JAC to bail out TRS from other parties' onslaught. The only confusing element will be the strategy of Congress in the elections. The party may go to people promising Telangana state, if it wins, but its central leaders may keep quiet later. So, the people must ensure that only those who can sincerely work for the cause of statehood Telangana are elected in the elections even if they are local polls. ♦

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Addicted to Alcohol or Drugs?



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2. Is your work getting disturbed because of your ADDICTION ?

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Relapse Prevention Program
Adult Substance Education Program
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Life Skill Enhancement

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Psychiatric & Psychological Assessment
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AA / NA 12 Step Program
Management of Emotions and Feelings
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PHOENIX FOUNDATION

Rehabilitation Centre for Substance Abuse and Behavioural Addiction

38, Anupuram Kapra, A.S. Rao Nagar, Secunderabad - 62. A.P. India
Contact : +91 888 696 55 66, 88863 33112, +91 40 27169999, 65865558
Email : info@phoenixrehab.co.in

www.phoenixrehab.co.in

Bomb Blasts in Hyderabad:

Our Police do business as 'Usual'?

By B Shivkant, Crime Correspondent

On 21st February the terrorists executed a heinous crime by blasting two bombs at different places in Dilukhnagar killing almost 19 innocent people and leaving hundreds with grievous injuries. Waking up from the deep slumber and to cover up its lackadaisical style of functioning, the city police have started a cover up sign in the name of Vehicular checks, Traffic checks and keeping surveillance in most of the crowded places in Hyderabad city but the loss of precious human lives has already happened and the families of victims are enduring the tragic memories of the bomb blasts. This tragedy happened almost 10 days ago and there is no progress in investigation and the NIA has written to the state government to transfer the case from Special Investigating Team (SIT) to them.

The drama is continuing in the police department and they are not even feeling ashamed over their non-performance and it looks like they have become extremely insensitive and have become ignorant as to how much pain it would be to lose a dear family member but our insensitive and yet smart police officials are finding opportunities in even disgusting situations too. The police have started checking vehicles seriously only after the bomb blasts took place and probably after the real culprits might have escaped and the people who helped them in this devilish act might have gone underground.

The modus operandi of police especially Hyderabad Police is causing huge trouble to the city people. The police personnel saw a new opportunity in encashing the situation. The police in many parts of the city indulging in seizure of cash from the collection agents of the city based businessmen who collect cash from their parties and deliver it to their bosses. In few cases, it has been heard that lots of cash has been seized and because the police is involved the



businessmen are afraid to get involved in this hustle and settle it as soon as possible. Many businessmen are taking the help of local politicians and influential people for the recovery of their amounts seized and managing to get their money. For those who lack such patronage; the situation is different. They are getting back only a small portion of their amount after sharing with the station house officers who are claiming to be distributing to everyone who matters. When enquired, it got revealed that only in very few cases of cash seizure; the concerned Income Tax Department authorities are being requested for verification and investigation.

In the past it has been reported that a huge amount of more than 6 crores have been seized from an Auto Rickshaw in front of the DGP office at Lakdikapool and the police bosses were making tall claims of seizure and were quite

busy appearing before the media and giving interviews to various channels. But, within a short period the amount has been claimed and amount has been returned to the persons who actually own the same. It is also being alleged by many that the city police officers takes away all the cash and never return the same. The reason seems for the silence of the businessmen is nothing but the ill-management of accounts and high competition in the market and the huge taxes from the government departments which they feel quite hefty and unable to pay and to run their business they indulge in zero business which solely depends upon improper billings. One more reason attributed to this is that the businessmen of Abids, Begum Bazar, Goshamahal, Feelkhana, Sultan Bazar that they are quite busy in their day to day business affairs and they do quantity based business and they are involved in heavy transactions and its quite difficult for them to keep all the bills intact.

Whatever might be the reason, the businessmen should not evade tax at any cost and the people are of the opinion that police should not take advantage of the mistakes of business community and therefore stop seizing cash unethically and illegally. The top officials of the city police should keep sharp and vigilant surveillance on their own lower rung officials to check these kinds of incidents and it's their utmost duty that the business people should not be troubled unnecessarily in the name of vehicular checks and seizing of cash. On the other hand, the Aam Admi is very dissatisfied with the police as they have never seized any cash from any terrorists which resulted in bomb blasts. The common man is of the opinion that there must be some safeguards provided for the people and the police should check whatever is necessary to them and should not encroach over others' rights and duties in the name of performing their duties. ♦

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Registration department must justify its role

By B Shivkant

Recently, the Stamps and Registration Department has introduced online system for registration of properties through online. The officials have stated that they have introduced this system in Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy Districts and soon will introduce the same in 10 places in adjoining Medak District too. The officers further stated that the online system will put a check on fake registrations and also prevent corruption and interference of Brokers and Agents. They also said that any property in the state of Andhra Pradesh can be registered from any Sub-Registrar's Office which is having the online registration facility. The usual tall claims of officials seem to be all Bakwaas.

When the Crime Correspondent of Deccan Post has undertaken a deeper study of Registration Department; it got revealed that most of the Sub-Registrar's Offices in AP state are on leased premises and the Registration &

Stamps Department paying huge rents for the operations of these Sub-Registrars' offices despite the availability of government office space. Furthermore, the Registration Department has already outsourced the profitable services of issuance of Encumbrance Certificates (ECs), Market Value Certificates, Certified copies of the documents to Mee-Seva and E-Seva and has no work left for them and they can enjoy their work and take away the salary with less effort.

Every Investor, Realtor and even a common man who wants to buy his dream house very well knows about the litigations and disputes in Hyderabad. The Registration department collects huge registration fees and registers the properties in buyers' name but in no way takes responsibility for any kind of legal dispute in the property transacted. In Kerala state, the Registration Department issues a clearance certificate which is a government document to ratify the title and

possession of the property; but in our state, the officials lacking that will power and nobody wants the work burden which has resulted in lakhs of civil cases pending in various courts.

On the other hand, if one has to build his house and take Municipal permission, he needs to obtain a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the concerned Revenue Department authorities. After visiting the revenue office for months together what the applicant gets is nothing but a certificate in which the concerned MRO or RDO declares that "the subject property is not a government property" it does not bother about the title, documents, possession and all other legalities but just washes its hands by verifying whether it's a government land or not.

Many believe that, if the government can't assure or ratify the legal status of any property then why the citizens need to pay huge sums. Even after registrations or obtaining NOCs, the citizens are getting

harassed by litigants who became professional in creating litigation by producing agreements and somehow connecting themselves with the subject property.

The government and its officials are well aware of this problem but it seems nobody cares as they are not going to lose anything and it's the common man who always suffers and does not even mourn the same and the wrong doers in the alleged nexus of Municipal Department, Revenue Department, Police Department, Registration and Stamps Department etcetera always exploit the weakness of the victims. The government and the concerned top officials should stop making tall claims and bring some stringent rules and laws to eradicate the litigation practices by the wrong doers and protect the rights of the buyers of the properties. This is the only way to justify such huge stamp duty collected and the registration fee levied by the government. Else it means - fleece as much you can!! ♦

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Chandrababu Naidu, YSR and Kiran: All culprits in Babli row

The Supreme Court verdict on Thursday allowing construction of Babli irrigation project in Maharashtra is a blow to the interests of the farmers of Telangana. This judgment coming from a three member full bench of the apex court will certainly embolden Maharashtra government to go ahead with its ongoing projects (besides Babli - other eleven barrages built across River Godavari by the Maharashtra state) as well as several other smaller lift schemes across Godavari which originates near Nasik in Maharashtra and traverses through the State of Andhra Pradesh until it meets Bay of Bengal.

The reaction of the political parties was typical. The Opposition TDP leaders have been shedding crocodile tears after the verdict and claiming high moral ground for fighting for the cause of the demolition of Babli Project. One can only term TDP MLA Errabelli Dayakar Rao's turning 'tear-jerking' emotional at a media conference immediately after the Supreme Court ruling, a cheap gimmick intended to divert public attention from the blatant failure of TDP government when it was in power before being ousted in April/May 2004. Neither Dayakar Rao nor his party leaders can gloss over the fact that Chandrababu Naidu during his nine year rule has done nothing for Telangana, on irrigation front, except for enacting a drama of laying foundation stone for Devadula lift irrigation project,

that too for the purpose of checkmating the Telangana movement that was kick-started by TRS in 2001. The TDP under Naidu, has a pathetic record of ignoring the interests of state -- be it the Almati project over River Krishna or the barrages over River Godavari. Naidu's silence over these inter-state issues conveys some kind of hidden agenda

Ironically, Naidu and his gang of TDP leaders from Telangana have unabashedly owned up Babli issue just to beat TRS in the 2010 by-elections. It must be stated that only because the TRS has been aloof over the illegal construction of barrages across the Godavari; the TDP smelt an opportunity to exploit this. Naidu enacted a silly drama of invading the neighboring state; knowing fully well the consequences of such a mockery. Indeed, Naidu appeared to be compelling the Maharashtra state police to arrest him in Maharashtra expecting to rake up sympathy amongst voters. Alas, all such gimmicks fell flat over their faces; the TDP led by Naidu was roundly defeated by people in the region leaving all candidates losing their deposits.

Ever since, TDP and united AP leaders are highlighting 'Babli' only to tell people of Telangana that it is they, the migrants from coastal Andhra who are seeking to protect the interests of Telangana farmers, casting entire blame on the Congress government in

Maharashtra that is accused as hurting their interests most. There may be some truth in the theory, but it is not right fully. TDP was in power when Maharashtra began works on Babli, but nothing was done to stop it then. At the same time, the role of YS Rajasekhara Reddy, Rosaiah and Kiran Kumar Reddy in failing to prevent Maharashtra government from constructing Babli project is there for all to see. Sad thing is that the successive chief ministers who ruled this Andhra Pradesh state for most part of the years were all from Seemandhra. Whether it is Naidu, Late YSR or Kiran, all are Seema-Andhra politicians whose concern for Telangana is a sham.

After a protracted litigation that saw heightened passions, the apex court upheld the legality of Babli project's allocation of 2.74 TMC (trillion metric cubic feet) water of Godavari from Maharashtra quota of 63 TMCs. The apex court bench headed by Justice RM Lodha in its 63 pages ruling observed that whatever the water to be stored at Babli should be from within this overall quota of 63 TMC, finalized as per AP - Maharashtra agreement on October 6th, 1975. Though, the general tone of the judgment of SC appears to be against to the interests of Andhra Pradesh, more so to Telangana, the undercurrent of this ruling upholds the natural rights of an upper riparian state on a river's water. This principle would apply to Telangana

too, when Andhra Pradesh is divided some time in future and Telangana becomes a separate state.

Relatively, for the people of Telangana region, the set back over Babli is much less in comparison to the deliberate and systematic loss caused by the Andhra politicians in usurping Telangana's share in river waters. The attitude of Seemandhra Chief Ministers in miserably failing to remove the silt that accumulated in Sri Ramsagar Project (earlier Pochampadu) built on Godavari in Nizamabad district, 11 km from AP - Maharashtra border is too glaring to be missed. Instead of its capacity of 112 TMC, it went down to 90 TMC due to silt. But these CMs, including TDP and Congress never bothered to clear it. The net loss of 22 TMC annually for Telangana region in view of such silt accumulation never gets addressed. It is not that they had no funds to de-silt the project constructed in 1980. But, they wanted to protect the interest of coastal farmers as silt in Pochampadu will jolly well allows release of more water from the dam, so that it can be used downstream at Dowleswaram. Such is the parochial interests of politicians who advocate unity of Telugu people; that's why there is need to cry foul over the Babli; instead the de-silting work in Pochampadu dam must begin immediately. ♦

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Why Hyderabad yet again?

I personally believe that the terror strikes in form of bomb blasts at Dilsukhnagar yet again a result of loopholes in the basic policing system in Hyderabad city and the responsible officers like Commissioner of Police, Director General of Police and Home Minister should resign from their duties as it's a gross failure on their part in saving the innocent lives of Hyderabad citizens. The higher police officials and responsible ministers enjoys all the luxuries funded by the public money and its their primary duty to ensure the safety and security of the common man in Hyderabad city. Your last week's cover story was very different from other stories published in various newspapers and it also suggested how to



avert and prevent such kind of attacks on Hyderabad especially in Dilsukhnagar. The police should at least now understand and practice real policing and protect the citizens and should never forget that it's their duty.

Sanjana Sharma, Malakpet

Is Law taking its own course?

I am a regular reader of Deccan Post and find it quite unique from other newspapers. Every newspaper has published about the recent bomb blasts in Hyderabad and the police made tall claims that they will nab the real culprits and till today they have not arrested the real criminals in different bomb blasts in various parts of the city. The police officials should start practicing what they preach and claim. I am unable to understand why the government

has not transferred or taken any action against the failure of the police officials. I appeal the government through Deccan Post that there should be punishment for bad performance and reward for good work in police department and I think that way the police officers would become more responsible and attentive towards delivering their duties.

Manoj Kumar, E-mail

BCs get their due for now...

The Supreme Court orders on BCs reservation in local body elections in the state of Andhra Pradesh is wholeheartedly welcomed and applauded by one and all. Finally the Backward classes can be politically empowered and this must have compelled the established political parties in the state to look out for good candidates from BC community. The decision on BC reservations was pending since a long time resulting in halt of central funds coming to the state and caused huge

loss to the development works in the rural areas of Andhra Pradesh state. I hope the government will conduct the long pending elections soon and enable the local bodies to function effectively and take up the development to the rural and remote areas.

L. Sadanand, Mehdipatnam

Is India polio immuned?

Your last week's story on polio immunization was a wonderful one. India is suffering with many problems of different nature but the health of citizens should not be compromised at any cost. The government must take its polio immunization program to all parts of the country to eradicate this deadly disease. We should contribute to the nation by propagating this vital program to save our children from becoming handicapped and encourage our children who are already affected by this disease to be bold and compete with normal people.

S Narayan Rao, Karkhana

Readers are requested to send in their feedback to mail@deccanpost.net



Rural Technology Mela in Hyderabad:

A Symbol of National Integration

By Dr Shankar Chatterjee

My one of the favourite cities Hyderabad is endowed with many resources but its laurel lies with National Institute of Rural Development, popularly known as NIRD, which is the country's apex body for undertaking training, research including action research and consultancy works in the field of rural development.

The main office of NIRD is located in Hyderabad and regional offices are in Guwahati, Jaipur and Patna. It is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India and known as 'think-tank' of the Ministry. With the initiative of NIRD, training programs for practicing rural development functionaries such as Government officials, PRI representatives, NGO functionaries, bank officials, academicians and others are conducted across all over India and other countries of the world. In other words, participants from different parts of India and from other countries of the world attend in NIRD, Hyderabad Vis-a-Vis faculty members of NIRD also visit other countries to conduct training programs. In addition to training and research, every year NIRD organizes Melas at its Rural Technology Park (RTP) where rural entrepreneurs mainly self-help group members with their products and research centers with their products of low cost technology attend.

It is pertinent to mention that the Rural Technology Park was set up at NIRD campus in the year 1999 on 65 acres of land (in addition to NIRD's land) with the objective of transfer of technologies to the villages through dynamic approach. Like other years, this year also Mela was held from February 21st to 24th, 2013. A large number of rural products developed by various NGOs and SHGs were displayed representing 14 states across India. The rural technologies as well as products displayed inter alia include – handicrafts, handlooms; khadi and village industries' products; herbal, medicinal and aromatic products; wood carvings, and other handicrafts etc. Another highlighting feature of the Mela was that varieties of foods and books were available for the people in addition to rural products.

Moreover, a series of cultural programs were performed during Mela by famous artists, students of the NIRD, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan School and cultural troops hailing from Adilabad district who performed sublime tribal dance. While strolling in different stalls in the Mela, it was heartening to observe that this type of Mela not only provided livelihood support to many below poverty line families but also promoted national integration. It facilitated 'poor' villagers from every nook and corner of the country to visit Hyderabad (to & fro and boarding & lodging were provided by NIRD at free of cost) and thus encouraged



their mobility and which is glaring symbol of national integration. To get an idea in this regard few cases are presented here. Mrs Lily Majumdar (53 years) an intermediate pass woman through her boutique work is popular figure in Serampore of Hooghly district, West Bengal. She had knowledge in tailoring but she took interest in boutique

works (cloth design) and thus with her products including Bengal's Katha Sari, she did brisk business in the Mela. Along with her Miss Meera Ghosh (53 years age, 10th pass) also came with the products like coin bag made of special thread, mobile cover (made of artificial pearl), jute coaster etc. With the encouragement received from



NIRD authorities, they could participate in such Mela as coming from Hooghly district of West Bengal to Hyderabad for two elderly women was not an easy task. Same was the case of Mrs Basanti Behera and Mrs Pratima Lenka. Both Mrs Behara (40 years & 10th class pass) and Mrs Lanka (52 years, 8th class pass) hailing from Raigarh district of Odisha with little knowledge of Hindi (Oriya mother tongue) could not dare to come to Hyderabad for selling items like spices, dal, papad etc., if they were not encouraged to come here. They were part of Maa Santoshi SHG in their village; however, the activities were individually carried out by them. From extreme corner of northern part of Assam, under the banner of NGO "Nava Sanjeevance", 2 females and 2 males participated in the Mela with their rural products.

This NGO under the leadership of a tribal youth (post graduate in literature & in mid-twenties) informed that in Lakhimpur district of Assam with their initiatives rural women forming self-help groups were carrying out different activities like mekhala & mekhala chadar making (Assamese type sari), wooden crafts, handicrafts etc., in 25 villages across the district by forming 35 SHGs and thus many families were benefitted.

However, according to them, they could travel to Hyderabad from interior village of Lakhimpur district due to initiatives taken by NIRD. Another unique case was from Sikkim as the 4-member comprising 3 women and 1 male under the leadership of Mrs Kumari Rai (42 years, 8th class pass) informed coming from far flung area of the country to Hyderabad requires a lot of courage and they travelled to Hyderabad without any hassle. The case of two self-help group members of Madhya Pradesh namely Shri Mukesh Tewari (Secretary, 10th class pass) and Shri Govinda Prasad Tewari (Member, 8th class pass) from Khullari village, Jabalpur district is also interesting one.

While, they were in Mela informed that because of Government support as well as forming SHG they got the confidence to visit other parts of the country to sell their goods, otherwise hailing from interior village of Madhya Pradesh with the knowledge of Hindi they were initially scared to visit Hyderabad. This is the beauty of India as in spite of many languages, culture, customs, religions, and other diversities, India is one. And Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore more than hundred years back wrote in his 'Bharatirtha' poem "Eai Bharater Mahamanber Sagoro Tire", simple meaning is 'even today, India is like an ocean of resources'. Yes our greatest strength is our resources mainly human resource. ♦

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By Jaywant Naidu

Emphasizing that Food Security Bill is a promise of the UPA government, Finance Minister P Chidambaram has proposed Rs 10,000 crore as incremental cost to implement the Food Security Bill. He added that food subsidy is seen at Rs 90,000 crores in the Financial Year 2014. The original bill was introduced in December 2011 in the Lok Sabha. It was recently revised taking into consideration the Parliamentary Panel recommendation. The Bill aims to cover around 70 percent of the national population with a uniform allocation of five kg food-grains per person at a fixed rate of Rs 1-3 per kg every month through ration shops.

According to an Economic Survey 2012-13, food subsidy had been growing at an average annual rate of 25.4 percent in the last five years. It highlighted that the bulk of it was accounted for by the targeted public distribution system (TPDS). The Bill says 75 per cent of the rural population and 50 per cent of the poor in urban India - about 800 million people - will be entitled to five kilos of subsidized grain per month. Rice will be made available at Rs 3/- a kilo; wheat will cost Rs 2/- a kilo and cereal will be sold for Re 1/- per kilo. For this year, the government expects to spend about Rs 1,30,000 crores on food subsidies.

Highlights of the bill:

The Bill proposes food-grain entitlements for up to 75 percent of the rural and up to 50 percent of the urban population. Of these, at least 46 percent of the rural and 28 percent of the urban population will be designated as priority households. The rest will be designated as general households.

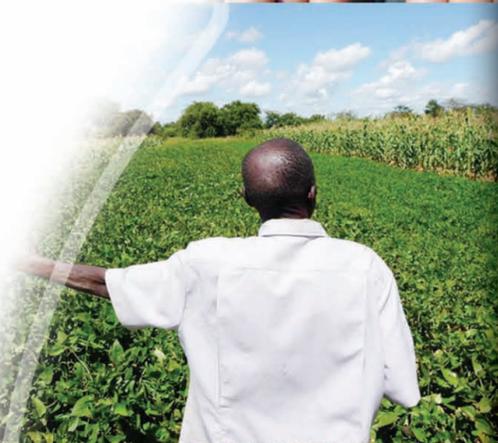
Priority households will be entitled to 7 kg of subsidized food grains per person per month. The central government will determine the percentage of people in each state that will belong to the priority and general groups. State governments will identify households that belong to these groups. The Bill proposes meal entitlements to specific groups. These include: pregnant women and lactating mothers, children between the ages of six months and 14 years, malnourished children, disaster affected persons, and destitute, homeless and starving persons. Grievance redressal mechanisms will be set up at the district, state, and central levels of government. The Bill proposes reforms to the Targeted Public Distribution System.

Standing committee recommendations:

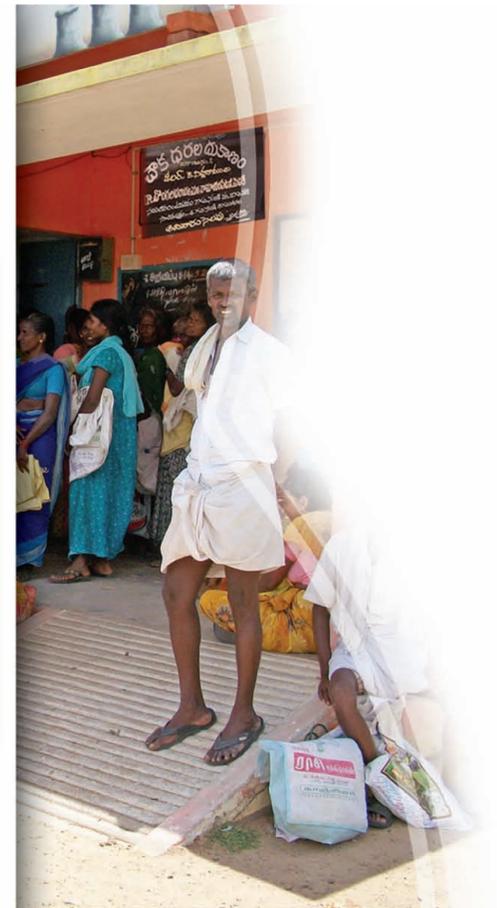
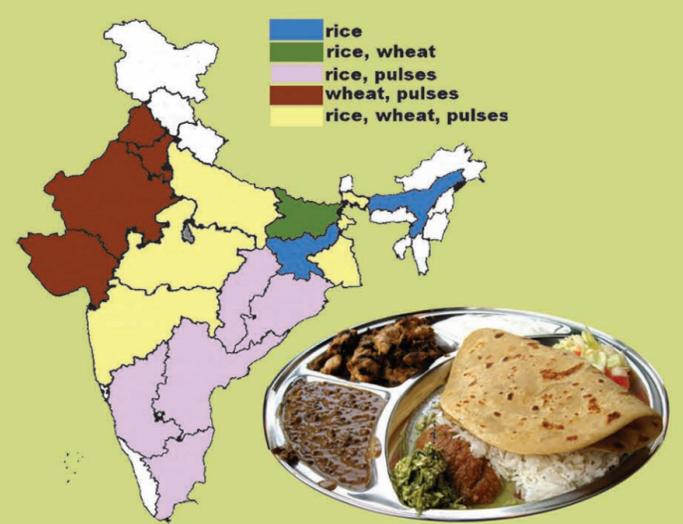
The Parliament's Standing Committee on Food, consumer affairs and public distribution, headed by Congress MP Vilas Muttemwar recently submitted its recommendations on the National Food Security Bill to the Parliament. Some of its key recommendations are as follows:

The committee has recommended that the population to be covered under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in the Bill should be under a single category with uniform entitlements of 5 kg per person per month. Earlier there were many different categories for entitlement, which the committee felt only added to confusion in implementation of the Food Security Act. And though a number of activists had been demanding that the entitlement per person be worked out to at least 7 kg per person, the committee has decided to put it at 5 kg per person.

The difference, under this report, is that under the present TPDS, every BPL and AAY household gets 35 kg of food-grains irrespective of the household size. Some members were apprehensive that the shift from household-based entitlement would lead to decrease in the entitlement in case of smaller family size, but the committee felt that households with more members and larger families will be entitled to get more. As a result, the entitlements proposed in the Bill are on per person basis and not on household basis as it was earlier.



Food for All - Is it possible?



The committee has also recommended that the State Governments may be given the flexibility to extend the coverage beyond the numbers prescribed under the proposed Bill (at least 75 per cent of the rural population and 50 per cent for urban), out of their own resources so as to cover more population, but not less population as envisaged in the proposed Bill. The committee was disappointed that thus far, only about 68 per cent of the socio-economic caste census has been completed and there is no time frame within which the survey has to be completed. The committee strongly recommended that the work relating to the Socio-Economic Caste Census, 2011 should be expedited and completed without any further delay. Keeping in view the large scale gaps and inadequacies in the existing banking system, particularly in rural and remote areas, the committee felt that the introduction of cash transfer at this juncture may not be desirable, even though the Bill has provisions of direct cash transfer, food coupons or other schemes to the targeted beneficiaries in lieu of food-grains entitlements.

The committee recommended that the Government must ensure banking infrastructure and accessibility to banking facility be made available in all parts of the country including remote, rural and hilly tribal areas before introducing cash transfer in lieu of food subsidy. Pregnant women should be given an additional 5 kg of food-grains per month during pregnancy and till two years after the birth of the child so as to meet her nutritional requirement, both post-delivery and during lactation. Earlier, under the Food Security Bill, pregnant women were also provided with meals, free of charge during pregnancy and six months after child birth through local Anganwadis to meet nutritional standards specified in the Bill. However, the Committee felt that sufficient Anganwadi centers did not exist in all parts of the country, and in many places where they do exist, they don't function efficiently. The Committee also felt that it is not practical for pregnant women to go to Anganwadi centers to get free meals. The Committee found that the ICDS scheme is not yet ripe to implement the provisions of the Bill. Moreover, the Committee did not find it practical for the children below the age of two years to go to Anganwadi centers to get free meals. The Committee, therefore, recommended that children below the age of two years who are entitled to 5 kg of food-grains under the provisions of the Bill need not be provided free meals as they will be fed by their mothers who have already been recommended additional 5 kg of food-grains till two years after child birth.

Issues of concern:

The Bill classifies beneficiaries into three groups. The process of identifying beneficiaries and placing them into these groups could create problems. State legislatures would have to make budgetary allocations for redressal measures. Implementation of the Bill may be affected if States do not pass requisite allocations in their budgets or do not possess adequate funds. There is no rationale for the cut-off numbers prescribed for entitlements to priority and general households. The grievance redressal framework could overlap with that provided in the Citizens' Charter Bill. The recommended National Food Security Bill will further worsen the conditions of the suffering farmers of India, unless Centre adopts necessary safeguards before formulating and implementing it.

The loopholes in the current public distribution system need to be sorted out before the implementation of the proposed Bill. There could be an expected 245 million tons of food grains this crop year even as our warehouses are overflowing with previous years' stocks. The farm sector is booming even as farmers are sinking. The main problem is that the Indian farmers are not getting the correct remunerative prices for their produce. There is a need to form Commissions on Agricultural Costs and Prices at the State level, decentralization of procurement, and then linking the Minimum Support Price (MSP) to the rising input costs. It is important to convert the crop loans into key loans after harvesting, strengthening the Agricultural Insurance Corporation, and also boosting the seed village concept. Spending on social schemes should not come at the expense of capital expenditure. Inflation will go up, and there will be food inflation from the demand side. Will it be Food for all or Free for all? ♦



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Kalyana Venkateswara Swamy on Chinnesha Vahanam

On the sunny morning of the on-going annual Brahmotsavams of Lord Kalyana Venkateswara the processional deity of Lord Malayappa Swamy was taken out in a grand procession on 'Chinna Sesa Vahanam' around the holy mada' streets encircling the holy shrine. According to Hindu puranas the Kundalini Shakti is said to be most powerful level of energy and called Kaivalya Gnana. This is the potent energy available to mankind by the grace of Lord of Lords Sri Venkateswara and is represented by mighty snake. To make the human being about the important of that Serpentine Kundalini energy which enables human being



to reach the 8.4 millionth manifestations, the last in the cosmic life cycle lord takes ride on Chinna Sesa Vahanam which is also believed to be the divine serpentine Vasuki. The TTD has made elaborate seating arrangements on all the galleries of the sacred Mada Streets besides provision of public utilities like toilets, drinking water and also huge plasma Screens to give better views to all the audience. CV&SO Sri GVG Ashok Kumar, Temple Dy EO Smt. Reddamma, Supdt Engineer Sri Sudhakar Rao, Exe Engineer Sri Nageswara Rao, AEO Sri Lakshman Naik, Temple Staff and large number of devotees took part.



ASTRO FOCUS

Mar 3-9, 2013

Aries: Work completed this week will be much beyond your expectations and the result will be immediate. Your hard work and determination will bring you success. Good prospects for new entrepreneurs. Romance would flourish as your beloved brings you gifts and expensive presents. Regular morning walks and a controlled diet would help you regain your lost energy and spirits.

Taurus: This week improving your skills and knowledge should be on your list of priorities. Your desire to make fast money will keep you on the move through out the week. Cash and other financial transactions need to be handled with care. You may complete pending work which may cause excess strain.

Gemini: This week you will be in a position to raise funds, collect pending payments, or ask for funds. Secrets and important information should not be disclosed. You will enjoy interacting with people who share your views and thoughts. A distant trip or a visit to a religious place will be on the cards for some of you. Your beloved will be caring but highly possessive.

Cancer: Your ability to communicate effectively will help you enhance your reputation and make an invincible mark for yourself. Sudden good news brings happiness and lifts your morale. Your sincerity and dedication towards your work would be appreciated. Family members will bring you happiness and look after you well.

Leo: This week added responsibilities would be burdensome. Avoid getting trapped in disputes that do not concern you in any manner. This is the right time for major decisions on the professional front. This is also the perfect time for those seeking legal advice. Your love life will flourish, with your beloved going out of the way to keep you happy.

Virgo: A stable period of growth and prosperity sees you shine with new confidence and enthusiasm. Happy news from a friend or a close relative will boost your spirits and bring cheerful moments. Spouse will be caring and provide you with love and affection. Health seems perfect except minor stomach ailments, take necessary precautions and avoid eating any exposed food.

Libra: You have to increase your self confidence level to face any situation. You may get good profits during the week. Great opportunities could knock at your door and this could be an important turning point. Careful speculation will get good gains. Routine works will be done normally. Romance would be in the air as you explore new friendship. Proper exercise and diet will be important to maintain regular good health.

Scorpio: Your original ideas will win acceptance from others, and people will seek your advice. Any result of an interview or test shall be quite favorable for you. Your sincerity and dedication towards your work would be appreciated. Relationship with Love/Spouse and relatives will be cordial and you would look forward to spend some pleasurable moments with them.

Sagittarius: Your ability to be practical and straightforward in business will bring you enormous gains. Favorable period for professionals as well as businessmen. Going out with friends towards the weekend will be in your own interest. Spouse/Love will be highly supportive and shower you with love and affection.

Capricorn: Pending projects and jobs at hand would require urgent attention. Work quietly on small but important projects for long term gains. Important messages and telephone calls should be handled personally. College students will venture into small part time jobs or short-term courses. Time spent with partner could give you opportunity to make healthy relationship.

Aquarius: Financial gains from unexpected sources for some. Spend some extra time with your family members. You should focus on your goals and making money. Selective speculation will bring favorable results. Make good use of the knowledge you will gain! Your saved wealth shall increase. Religious feeling will arise making you seek blessing from a spiritual person. A budding romance is on the horizon for some of you.

Pisces: You would start your week with a positive frame of mind, Excitement over new projects and financial gains will energize you. This is going to be a period of appreciation, laughter and professional success. Some work done earlier will bring in their benefits in terms of cash as well as kind. The sudden influence of someone very powerful and influential would bring a new direction to your career.

SUDOKU 259

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|-----|
| | 4 | | | | 7 | | | |
| | | 7 | | 5 | | | 3 | |
| 1 | 3 | | 9 | 8 | 7 | | 4 5 | |
| 7 | 9 | | 8 | | 4 | 6 | | 2 |
| | 6 | | | 7 | | | | 9 1 |
| | | 5 | 1 | | | | | 3 |
| 6 | | 4 | | 9 | | 5 | | |
| | | 2 | 6 | 4 | | | | 1 |
| 8 | 7 | | 5 | | 1 | 9 | 6 | 4 |

How to play : Fill in the grid so that every horizontal row, every vertical column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating the numbers in the same row, column or box. You can't change the digits already given in the grid. Every puzzle has one solution.

A N S W E R S Sudoku-258

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| 5 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 2 |
| 2 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 8 |
| 1 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 6 |
| 7 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 4 |
| 8 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 1 |
| 4 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 3 |
| 9 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 7 |
| 3 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 5 |

Answer 258 : Santhosh K, KPHB Colony

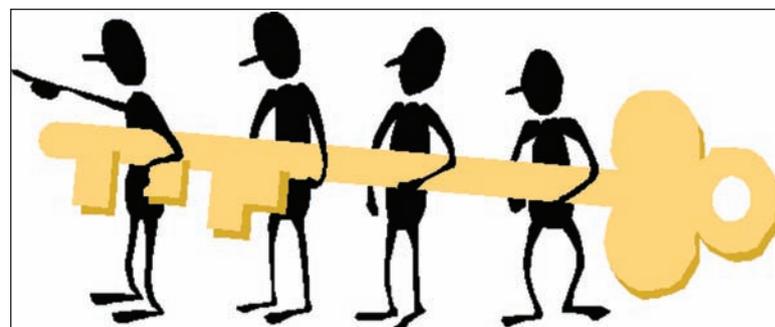
Laugh out loud

Tu Dharti Pe Chahe Jahan
Boy: Tu dharti pe chahe jahan bhi rahegi, tujhe teri khushbu se pehchan loonga...
Girl: Mujhe pehle se pata tha, tum kuttay ho...

"WRONG NUMBER"
 A teenage girl had been talking on the phone for about half an hour, and then she hung up.
"Wow!," said her father, **"That**

was short. You usually talk for two hours. What happened?"
"Wrong number," replied the girl.

IDIOT
Son: Dad, what is an idiot?
Dad: An idiot is a person who tries to explain his ideas in such a strange and long way that another person who is listening to him can't understand him. Do you understand me?
Son: No.
HOW TO BECOME A DOC
 At Bus Stand,
 An American Doctor got Heart Attack after Reading a Book's Name...!!
 Guess The Name of that Book...??
"How to Become A DOCTOR in 30Days" .. just Rs 150/-



A key to success
 Whenever I find the key to success, someone changes the lock.

Mixing spirits

World renowned bar consultant and mixologist Atilla Iskifoglu from Turkey was in Hyderabad and spoke to Deccan Post about his unique bartending skills.

When did you get into this profession?

I have been a flair bartender and mixologist since 1995, I started bartending professionally in the year 2000 by competing and travelling internationally to teach flair bartending and mixology.

What has been your unique approach to bartending?

I am one of the first bartenders to choreograph my moves to music and one of the first people in Europe to embrace three and four object flair.

How do you feel when you perform?

When I perform flair I am very delighted. I only see my hands. When I practice, I am constantly seeing only bottles and shakers. I listen to music and all surroundings disappear. I am off into another world.

What is special about your recipes?

I have introduced special hangover cure cocktail recipes and innovative healthy cocktails. One has to spend his time and creativity in coming with a variety of cocktails and mocktails. I enjoy making mocktails. Vitamins and nutrients from fruits and vegetables are incorporated into my cocktails and mocktails. This also reduces the negative effects of alcohol and makes it a healthy drink for my customer. Reduction of Alcohol in this manner would also help in keeping the stomach in order.

Can you tell us about your academy?

Atilla Flair Training International is an academy established to offer internationally recognized portfolio of flair training and



courses which are designed to motivate and encourage flair bartender of all levels of ability, through a systematic measurement of progress. We have trained more than 800 bartenders all over the World. We provide training in all types of Flair, Working Flair, Exhibition Flair, Competition Flair, Fun Classes, and Performance Opportunities.

Any unique type of cocktails in your collection?

I have around 300 different cocktails under my belt. The most unconventional one is mixed with spinach. Honey, fresh fruit juices, ginger, walnuts and spices also form part of my

cocktails.

Who is a good 'Bartender'?

Being a bartender means a lot of responsibility. Serving a customer cannot be possible without knowing mixology. It's a very responsible profession. Making a cocktail is not just about juggling with spirits and squeezing lime. One has to mix a drink keeping the customer in mind. ♦

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- JAYWANT NAIDU

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Nitya & Nitin in 'GJG'

Nitin's new movie with Nitya Menon after Ishq is "Gunde Jaari Gallanthayinde". The title of this film has been taken from a popular song from the superhit film Gabbar Singh. The Takie part of this film was completed and now this team had fled to foreign to shoot the

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balance three songs.

Two Songs will be shot in Abu Dhabi and Muscat from February 26 onwards and final song will shot in a set which is erected in Hyderabad from March 14. Nithya Menon and Isha Talwar are playing the female lead in the movie. Badminton star Jwala Gutta is doing an item song in this movie.

Vijay Kumar Konda is directing the film and Anup Rubens is composing the music. Nitin's Sister Nikitha Reddy is producing it under Sreshta Movies banner. The Audio may release in March second half.

Vidya & Deepika to sizzle

Now check this out. Vidya Balan and Deepika Padukone are all set to share the screen space in noted cinematographer and Tamil filmmaker Rajiv Menon's next, a biopic on MS Subbulakshmi, a legendary Carnatic singer. Now this is one solid combination!!!

Vidya will essay the role of MS Subbulakshmi and Deepika Padukone is said to play Vidya's sister, Bala. Rajiv Menon, who is known to be a big fan of Deepika is keen to work with her and so he will ensure that she is not sidelined by Vidya and that both will get meaty roles. It seems it will be the beginning of a new friendship in B-town. Vidya is known to share a very nice relationship with all her co-stars and so is Deepika. Both the actresses have never been known to have thrown starry tantrums. So we are sure that there wouldn't be any kind of ego-tussle between the two.

Initially, rumors had it that Aishwarya Rai would be playing the role of MS Subbulakshmi. But, Aish rejected the offer as she felt that the movie did not have the elements of a mainstream Bollywood movie, as it is more of an art film.

-DP Desk



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Market declines further

By V Sundar Raja

The stock market indicator Sensex, has further continued the earlier downtrend, that was seen from 20,200 levels in the last few weeks. Market extended its correction and deepened the previous losses especially in the mid-cap and small cap segments, due to sustained selling pressure and lack of buying interest from the financial Institutions. Positive news is that the economic review that was presented on 27th February gave a positive outlook for the economy and it is expected that the worst is over.

The software stocks were the only sector that is witnessing strength and are seen continuing the uptrend and looks positively placed, while a minor technical reaction is expected as the sector stocks are near the overbought position. Infrastructure stocks and construction stocks were seen in a limelight after a long time, as this sector is expected to benefit in the long-term. The Fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) have attracted attention as increased rural spending is also expected to benefit this segment.

Banking stocks have witnessed sharp decline, while the Pharma stocks were seen steady. Sensex has declined by more than 1,000 points in the last few weeks and has even declined below the major psychological level of 19,000 marks for the short-term investors to be cautious. It looks that market has put a halt to the immediate bullish trend and Sensex



has to consolidate strongly at the lower levels, if it has to enter into a positive trend.

Crude oil has taken support at the major level of 5,000, after an earlier decline from 5,250 levels, in the commodity market. It is now expected to get into a short-term uptrend and it has to sustain at the next key barrier of 5,250, for a further uptrend. In-case of any failure to sustain above the support 5,000, then it indicates a short-term weakness.

Both the precious commodities Gold and Silver are seen in a subdued trend. Gold is expected to find support at 29,000 levels in the MCX commodity market, and only in-case of

any further break-down below this key support, it indicates a further weakness with the next major support below at 28,500. Silver has declined from 60,000 to current 53,000 levels, where a support is seen. But in-case of any further failure to sustain at current 53,000 support levels, then it indicates a further correction, with the next major support below at 50,000.

Base metals like Copper, Nickel, Zinc, Aluminum, Lead etc. have all declined strongly in the last few days. Dollar is again steadily against the Rupee and has the next barrier above at 55. In-case of any further

sustaining above this, then it means a further depreciation of the Rupee.

Stock market is expected to move in a cautious trend, in the short-term. Hence, short-term Investors have to be cautious, in making investments. But at the same time, many stocks have come down to attractive levels in this current correction. But technically on the charts, Sensex has to rebound and consolidate above 19,000 levels, to indicate a positive trend. ♦

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Note - Investors should be aware of risks in the stock market.

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